

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1. (Currently Amended) A fixing assembly for securing a fixing member to a ~~surface of a~~ prosthetic component, the fixing assembly comprising:

~~the surface of the~~ prosthetic component having either one of a female location feature or a male location feature;

a fixing member having the other of the ~~wherein (a) the surface comprises a female location feature and the fixing member comprises a male location feature, or (b) the surface comprises a male location feature and the fixing member comprises a female location feature,~~ the male and female location features fitting together in use; and

a ~~fixing~~ screw that passes through an aperture extending through ~~[[in]]~~ the fixing member to secure the fixing member to the prosthetic component, the screw oriented in the aperture of the fixing member to secure purchase of the screw to a bone in which the prosthetic component is implanted, wherein disposition of the screw in the fixing member causes securing of the fixing member to the prosthetic component to occur whether or not the screw gains purchase in the bone. ~~surface, wherein the fixing screw is available for securing the component to a second component; and~~

~~wherein the orientation of the fixing member relative to the surface of the component is adjustable.~~

2. (Canceled)

3. (Currently Amended) The fixing assembly of claim 1, wherein the ~~fixing~~ screw is external to the ~~surface of the~~ prosthetic component.

4. (Previously Presented) The fixing assembly of claim 1, wherein each of the male and female location features have at least one corresponding undercut to form an interference fit in use.

5. (Previously Presented) The fixing assembly of claim 4, wherein the interference fit forms a dovetail joint.

6. (Previously Presented) The fixing assembly of claim 1, wherein the male location feature comprises at least one portion that is generally flat in profile.

7. (Previously Presented) The fixing assembly of claim 1, wherein the male location feature comprises at least one portion that is conical in profile.

8. (Previously Presented) The fixing assembly of claim 1, wherein the male location feature has a slit, such that the male location feature is divided into two arms.

9. (Previously Presented) The fixing assembly of claim 8, wherein the male location feature is located on the fixing member.

10. (Previously Presented) The fixing assembly of claim 9, wherein the slit extends radially from the aperture of the fixing member.

11. (Previously Presented) The fixing assembly of claim 10, wherein the slit is formed in a plane substantially parallel to the axis of the aperture.

12. (Previously Presented) The fixing assembly of claim 10, wherein the slit is formed in a plane substantially perpendicular to the axis of the aperture.

13. (Previously Presented) The fixing assembly of claim 7, wherein the male location feature is a resiliently deformable material.

14. (Currently Amended) The fixing assembly of claim 1, wherein the location feature of ~~surface~~ of the prosthetic component is at least partly located on a rim of the prosthetic component surface.

15. (Canceled)

16. (Currently Amended) The fixing assembly of claim 9, wherein the ~~fixing~~ screw has a thickened portion that pushes apart the two arms of the male location feature when the ~~fixing~~ screw is screwed into the aperture of the fixing member.

17. (Currently Amended) The fixing assembly of claim 1, wherein the ~~surface of~~ the prosthetic component has a threaded portion adjacent a location feature for engaging the ~~fixing~~ screw as the ~~fixing~~ screw is inserted into the aperture of the fixing member.

18. (Currently Amended) The fixing assembly of claim 1, wherein the ~~surface of~~ the prosthetic component has a circumferential groove forming the female location feature to lock the fixing member to the prosthetic component.

19. (Currently Amended) The fixing assembly of claim 1, wherein the female location feature is on the fixing member and the male location feature is on the ~~surface of the~~ prosthetic component.

20. (Currently Amended) The fixing assembly of claim 1, wherein the prosthetic component is an acetabular cup.

21. (Currently Amended) The fixing assembly of claim 1, wherein the ~~surface of~~ the prosthetic component is a ~~surface of~~ a cup of a prosthetic ball and socket joint.

22. (Currently Amended) The fixing assembly of claim 1, wherein the fixing member is secured to an external surface of the prosthetic component.

23. (Currently Amended) A kit of parts for a fixing assembly for securing a fixing member to a ~~surface of a~~ prosthetic component, the kit comprising:

at least one prosthetic component having either one of a female location feature or a male location feature; ~~each component comprising a surface~~;

a fixing member~~[[,]]~~ having the other of the ~~wherein (a) each surface of a component comprises a female location feature and the fixing member comprises a male location feature, or (b) each surface of a component comprises a male location feature and the fixing member comprises a female location feature~~, the male and female location features configured to fit together in use, and

a ~~fixing~~ screw that passes through an aperture in the fixing member to translationally secure the fixing member to the ~~surface of one of the~~ at least one prosthetic component, the screw oriented in the aperture of the fixing member to secure purchase of the screw to a bone in which the at least one prosthetic component is implanted, wherein disposition of the screw in the fixing member causes securing of the fixing member to the at least one prosthetic component to occur whether or not the screw gains purchase on the bone, and

wherein the fixing member and the at least one prosthetic component are rotatably adjustable relative to each other. ~~the orientation of the fixing member relative to the surface of the component is adjustable.~~

24. (Currently Amended) The kit of claim 23, wherein the fixing member is secured ~~[[to an]] external surface of a~~ to at least one of the prosthetic components.

25. (Currently Amended) The kit of claim 23, wherein ~~the surface of~~ one of the at least one prosthetic components ~~is the surface of~~ a cup of a prosthetic ball and socket joint.

26. (Cancelled)

27. (Cancelled)

28. (Cancelled)

29. (Cancelled)

30. (Cancelled)

31. (New) A method for securing a fixing member to an acetabular cup comprising:

providing an acetabular cup having either one of a female location feature or a male location feature;

providing a fixing member having the other of the female location feature and the male location feature;

fitting the male and female location features together;

securing the fixing member to the acetabular cup by inserting a screw through an aperture extending through the fixing member, whereby the screw passes through the aperture; and

orienting the screw in the aperture of the fixing member to secure purchase of the screw to a bone in which the acetabular cup is implanted, wherein disposition of the screw in the fixing member causes securing of the fixing member to the acetabular cup to occur whether or not the screw gains purchase in the bone.

32. (New) The fixing assembly of claim 1, wherein the female location feature is located on the prosthetic component and the male location feature is located on the fixing member.

33. (New) The fixing assembly of claim 1, wherein the screw is threadably received in the aperture of the fixing member.

34. (New) The fixing assembly of claim 33, wherein the action of the threads of the screw relative to the fixing member causes the fixing member to be secured to the prosthetic component.

35. (New) A fixing assembly for securing a fixing member to an acetabular cup, the fixing assembly comprising:

the acetabular cup having either one of a female location feature or a male location feature;

a fixing member having the other of the female location feature and the male location feature, the male and female location features fitting together in use; and

a screw that is threadably received in an aperture extending through the fixing member to secure the fixing member to the acetabular cup, the screw oriented in the aperture of the fixing member to secure purchase of the screw to a bone in which the acetabular cup is implanted, wherein disposition of the screw in the fixing member causes securing of the fixing member to the acetabular cup to occur whether or not the screw gains purchase in the bone.

36. (New) The fixing assembly of claim 35, wherein the action of the threads of the screw relative to the fixing member secures the fixing member to the acetabular cup.

37. (New) The fixing assembly of claim 35, wherein the female location feature is located on the acetabular cup and the male location feature is located on the fixing member.